

AMENDMENTS

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for sampling a high temperature process stream, wherein a temperature of the high temperature process stream is above a boiling point of a target sample component at a process stream pressure, the method comprising the steps of:
 - 1.1. evacuating a low temperature zone of a sampling system using a ~~first~~-vacuum pump;
 - 1.2. admitting a portion of the high temperature process stream into the low temperature zone through an orifice;
 - 1.3. maintaining a stable vacuum pressure in the low temperature zone;
 - 1.4. introducing a sample from the low temperature zone of the sampling system into test equipment through a sample introduction valve, ~~the test equipment comprising a mass spectrometer;~~
 - 1.5. ~~evacuating with a second vacuum pump a chamber of the mass spectrometer to a pressure lower than the stable vacuum pressure in the low temperature zone;~~ and
 - 1.6. maintaining a temperature of the low temperature zone above a boiling point of the target sample component at the stable vacuum pressure.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the orifice has a diameter of between 0.005 inches and 0.025 inches.
3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of maintaining a stable vacuum pressure in the low temperature zone includes metering flow to the ~~first~~-vacuum pump.
4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of maintaining a stable vacuum pressure in the low temperature zone includes controlling the ~~first~~-vacuum pump.

5. -6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the test equipment includes a mass spectrometer.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the test equipment includes a FT-ICR mass spectrometer.
9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the FT-ICR mass spectrometer includes a second vacuum pump, and the method further comprises the step of evacuating with the second vacuum pump a chamber of the FT-ICR to a pressure lower than the stable vacuum pressure in the low temperature zone. |
10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the stable vacuum pressure is between a pressure of the process stream and a high vacuum pressure of a vacuum chamber of the test equipment.

11. – 22. (Canceled)